

Message Text

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EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS 4
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: KIM OK-SUN CLAIMS ROKG HARASSMENT IN WAKE OF MEETING
WITH SALZBERG

REF: SEOUL 2961

1. FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIM OK-SUN CLAIMS THAT FOUR DAYS AFTER HER MEETING WITH FRASER STAFFER JOHN SALZBERG AND EMBOFFS, ROK AGENT QUESTIONED HER AS TO CONTENT OF MEETING. BY APRIL 16 FOLLOWING APRIL 11 MEETING WITH SALZBERG AT HER HOME, LOCAL COURTS NOTIFIED HER THAT A CUSTOMS VIOLATION CASE AGAINST HER, SUSPENDED NINE YEARS AGO, WAS BEING REVIVED AND THAT SHE WAS SUMMONED TO APPEAR IN COURT BY APRIL 21ST. SHE BELIEVES THAT RENEWAL OF CASE STEMS DIRECTLY FROM FACT SHE MET WITH SALZBERG BUT ALSO CONCEDES THAT GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO BE WORRIED THAT SHE MIGHT RUN FOR ONE OF TWO VACANT ASSEMBLY SEATS (CHONGNO DISTRICT) IN UPCOMING BY-ELECTION. (SHE IS UNDECIDED ABOUT RACE.)

2. MS. KIM NOTED THAT ROKG "AGENT" WHO CAME TO HER HOME SAID IT TOOK HIS OFFICE FULL FOUR DAYS TO FIND OUT SHE HAD SEEN SALZBERG BUT THEY HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN DIS-
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COVERING CONTENT OF TALK. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT ENLIGHTEN HIM. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD "SOME KNOWLEDGE" OF WHAT OTHER DISSIDENT FIGURES HAD DISCUSSED WITH WOLFF PARTY CONGRESSMEN. SHE HAD THOUGHT WAS INTERROGATION PLOY BUT LATER CONFIRMED FROM NDP SOURCES, THAT INFORMATION IN THOSE MEETINGS DID LEAK OUT. SHE ASCRIBES THESE LEAKS TO DISSIDENT FIGURES THEMSELVES AS WELL AS THEIR "MISSIONARY" CONFIDANTES "WHO

MAY NOT BE WISE TO WASY OF ROK INTELLIGENCE."

3. WHEN SHE SAW SALZBERG, SHE RESPONDED TO HIS DIRECT QUESTION BY SAYIN SHE DID NOT THINK HIS VISITS TO POLITICAL DISSIDENTS

WOULD HARM THEM. IN RETROSPECT, HOWEVER, MS. KIM NOW FEELS THAT ROKG MAY HAVE BEEN MORE SENSITIVE TO DISSIDENTS SPEAKING WITH CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES THAT SHE HAD PREVIOUSLY SUPPOSED. SHE NOTED ATTENTION PAID TO HER CONVERSATION WITH SAYBER SUPPORTS THIS IMPRESSION. IN FUTURE, SHE WOULD STILL LIKE TO TALK WITH U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS FIGURES BUT SAID THAT SHE, EMBASSY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES SHOULD PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO TIMING OF THESE TALKS.

4. SHE ALSO CONTENTS THAT SHE IS INNOCENT OF CHARGES CASE BEING RESURRECTED. NINE YEARS AGO SHE IMPORTED PIANO, PLOW, AND SEWING MACHINE INTO COUNTRY FROM JAPAN FOR USE IN SOCIAL INSTITUTION SHE WAS SUPPORTING. SHE WAS ACCUSED OF CUSTOMS VIOLATION. AT THAT TIME, SHE BELIEVED CASE WAS DIRECT RESULT OF HER SUIT, IN SEOUL COURT, CHARGING ROKG WITH ELECTION LAW VIOLATIONS IN HER DISTRICT, A CASE WHE SAID WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RESOLVED IN HER FAVOR. COURT THEN SUSPENDED HER CUSTOMS CASE, IN HER VIEW TANTAMOUNT TO ACQUITTAL, BUT NOW SHE REALIZES GOVERNMENT WAS REALLY HOLDING THIS CHARGE IN ABEYANCE. SHE SAYS SHE IS QUITE CONFIDENT THIS IS ONLY MINOR HARRASEMENT, BUT SHE IS TAKING IT AS A WARNING THAT SHE SHOULD BE WARY OF SPEAKING FREELY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES. SHE WISHED THIS MESSAGE TO BE PASSED ON TO CONFIDENTIAL

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AMBASSADOR AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO MR. SALZBERG, EMPHASIZING THAT SHE WISHED TO CONTINUE TO KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN TO EMBASSY.
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